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COMMAND TRAINING: NCO RESPONSIBILITIES DISCUSSED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 80 p 6

[Article by L. Yevtukhov, PRAVDA special correspondent, Red-Banner Baltic Military District: "Sergeants: We Serve the Soviet Union!"]

[Text] A soldier sleeps soundly in the early morning hours. The hands of the clock march inexorably, like crossed bayonets, toward reveille. The floor squeaks underfoot: the stocky figure of a sergeant appears in the blue night illumination of the barracks.

"Battalion duty NCO Senior Sergeant Kubako!"

He deftly tucked his field shirt in taut. His face bore a stern look. And I recalled that at one time in the common vernacular the rank "sergeant" was pronounced like "serzhak" -- from the word "angry."

Kubako was tired but content. The scrubbed barracks floors glistened, and the tile in the washbasin gleamed in the blue light. Flatirons stood smartly in rank on the ironing table, and a "freshly scrubbed" electric teapot was waiting for its time -- hot water for shaving. Thread, needles, and buttons stood ready.... The soldier's simple daily domestic routine, smoothly arranged for by the efforts of the NCOs.

Much depends on the NCO in a soldier's life.

Peter the Great wrote: "He must come up through the ranks, so that he will be familiar with all his duties.... For this position (sergeant) is of such great importance that the entire integrity and smooth running of military service depends on him." The sergeant, serzhak or srazhant -- from the word "srazhat'sya" [to fight] -- honorably bore on his shoulders the burden of Russian military service. But in time, as Dal' states: "...Many sons of the nobility and important families were enlisted as sergeants merely for the sake of record of service." These were no longer fighting men, and in 1798 the rank of sergeant was abolished.

Many years later it was reestablished in the Soviet Army. On 2 November 1940 the ranks "serzhant" and "starshina" were introduced by order of the

People's Commissar of Defense. They became the principal support and right hand of the officers. Approximately 2,300 junior command personnel earned the title Hero of the Soviet Union on the battlefields of the Patriotic War.

"Please state your business," requested Kubako. Hearing me out, he politely requested: "Please go on into the Lenin Room. I'll be with you 10 minutes."

I put the waiting time to good use: here was an opportunity once again to thumb through the pages of the diary of Sgt A. Kostyuchek, one of Kubako's fellow NCOs. Because it was precisely this diary which was the reason for my early-morning visit to the tank battalion.

Aleksandr Borisovich Kostyuchek, born in Belorussia, normal education biography, and employment for a short period as a tractor driver. This was actually all Sasha related about himself. But when I began asking him about military service and his first steps as a commander, he thought for a moment, hesitated, and then gave me his diary to read -- a rather well-worn notebook.

"...We have reported for duty from the training subunit. Everything is new and unaccustomed. The battalion commander introduced us to the crews and assigned us tanks. I am commander of combat vehicle 137. This is my tank! Yes, my tank! I have never experienced such feelings...."

"Driver Junior Sergeant Yakovlev and I changed the battery on the tank. My performance probably had a few rough edges.

"...This evening I read through my list of duties once more. I am responsible for training, indoctrination, military discipline, for the appearance of my men, for utilization of equipment, gear, clothing, for their good condition and safekeeping.... I must indoctrinate... develop... encourage... be rigorously exacting....

"At school they told us: teach subordinates according to the principle 'do as I do.' Kolya gets the tank into motion in 1-2 seconds, while it takes me 5-6 seconds right now. I'm not much of an example!"

"This is the first New Year's Eve I am spending in the army. Singing, dancing, games, contests. Tolya Bratkovskiy, my gunner, was awarded a prize for his singing. Kolya also. A lighter. He was the fastest to get dressed from the 'sleeping on the cot' position, and did the best job squaring away his cot and getting into full combat gear. It is no disgrace to learn from others, but it turns out that I am the pupil in all things. I can't get to sleep at night...."

He can't get to sleep at night.... Yes, Sasha is uncomfortable in the role of commander. At the time the present Law on Universal Military Service Obligation was passed, Army Gen S. M. Shtemenko spoke about the difficulties in training noncommissioned officers connected with the shortened term of military service. He recalled that in 1940 they were going to increase by

1 year the term of service for NCOs over that of the rank and file enlisted personnel. The war kept this experiment from being carried out. And later.... Twice as much equipment was in use, and it was 10 times more complex. The term of officer training was doubled, while that for NCOs was shortened. Is it possible to train junior command personnel in this time? Apparently it is. But at the same time I was told: the army is training outstanding junior command personnel but is unable to make use of the results of the expended labor. By the time an NCO reaches full capability, his term of service is up.

Let us return to the diary.

"My first live-fire gunnery exercise. The CO told us that if we hit the target three out of three, we would earn a short home leave. My tank succeeded. The battalion commander informed us over the radio that he would honor his promise. But the company commander replied that we had hit the target but had completed the range course with a delay. It was unfortunate, but true. I really haven't taught the new driver. So much for my leave!

"Another setback. I was conducting drill. They pulled me off. They say I do not know how to give commands. The platoon leader demonstrated his skill."

I could almost see Kostyuchek standing there, embarrassed at his lack of skill. Was the officer right? After all, to help does not mean to take over for. One cannot be perfect the first time. But in order to learn to swim, one must go into the water. Of course one must take precautions, but trust is also necessary. But the diary told of something else:

"Sunday. The platoon leader took us on a cultural excursion. We visited a museum."

Why does an officer accompany five to 10 enlisted men on a Sunday outing to a movie or museum?

Mar SU G. K. Zhukov stated: "My many years of practical experience indicate that where there is no trust and confidence in junior command personnel, where senior officers are constantly hovering over them, genuine junior command personnel will never develop, and consequently there will not be good subunits."

It may be that there are reasons for the "disease of lack of confidence" in noncommissioned officers. Kostyuchek himself admits in his diary that he does not yet have the skill to command. But it is precisely here that the officer's indoctrinational skill should evidently be displayed....

"The boys did a poor job of squaring away their cots. I wanted to pull the bedding out and make them do it over, but could not bring myself to do this. I probably shouldn't have been so fainthearted. I thought about this all day...."

I remember asking Sasha why he had not sought the advice of an officer. "I guess I would have had felt embarrassed," he replied. Behind these words lies the whole problem: How is it possible to win the confidence of an NCO, so that he will take his doubts and questions to his superior? And on the other hand, an officer should himself foresee and notice these key moments in the development of an NCO, for the not yet consolidated character of the youth may not be able to stand up under the burden of responsibility. And in such a case he will scarcely become a reliable assistant.

Incidentally, there are many such problems in the business of NCO indoctrination.

"We were expecting it, but nevertheless the exercise began unexpectedly. It was night, and our vehicle, as luck would have it, was in the reserve parking area. We ran like crazy, but the tank reached the designated area 5 minutes ahead of schedule. The boys thought this would be the end of it, but then the tanks had to be run onto flatcars. I really felt sorry for the driver. But things worked out alright. We were seven hours en route by train. When we stopped, we had to roll right off the flatcar into combat. By morning we had our tank concealed. It is raining. The wet branches of a weeping birch are poking right into the hatch. I am tired."

"I am able to handle the duties of tank commander. I might even pat myself on the back. My crew has surpassed many of the others and is now somewhere in the middle. But I must look ahead. My model is Kubako...."

Here the diary ended. Sasha has only completed half the journey which Ivan Kubako is now ending; he will be continuing to serve and acquire experience. But I should like to trace to the end the rutted road of development of an NCO. This is why I decided to get together with Kubako: he could "finish writing" the diary.

A solidly-built, broad-shouldered fellow with neatly-trimmed hair. A face with prominent cheekbones, showing a strong will, calm, stern and kindly eyes -- a common description.

Senior Sergeant Kubako is also a tank commander. I had noticed at the tank training area that there were four stars on the gun on Kubako's tank. Not every tank commander could boast of such success in the recent large-scale exercise. "How were you able to accomplish all phases of the exercise so successfully?" I asked the senior sergeant.

"You have to know your job and command firmly. A soldier does not like a lack of will.... It is like rust."

"Perhaps it is due to the fact that you have a very good crew?"

"I have never encountered poor crews. Poor commanders -- yes. Some commanders totally dominate their subordinates. He might as well be driving a team of horses."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because all he knows how to do is drive them on. But you should share a soldier's feelings...."

"Of course to command does not mean playing up to the men. You do not put orders to a vote, but you should take into consideration the men's character and personality."

His manner of speech was jerky. The pauses dragged on so long that it seemed to me, as I was unaccustomed to his manner of speech, that Kubako had said all he was going to say. But this was not so. Gathering his thoughts, he would continue. Sometimes a quite unexpected reply.

I had been told that in the platoon under Kubako's command there had not been a single violation of discipline, in spite of the lack of an officer, and I asked him if this was true.

"That is correct, and will continue to be," he firmly replied. And suddenly: "Why should there be any? Is not that which we call discipline useful and beneficial?"

"But do not infractions occur in other subunits?"

"They do. And the NCOs themselves are at fault. Some people imagine that a soldier becomes a sergeant, a commander after he sews on NCO shoulder boards. This alone does not give entitlement to seniority. You must possess greater knowledge and skill than your subordinates. The whole secret is to display a personal example. Excuse me, it is time to wake up the NCOs; regulations call for them to get up 10 minutes before reveille sounds."

Kubako stood up, saluted, and strode into the blue light of the room where the tank crews were sleeping.

3024

CSO: 1801

COMBAT TRAINING: FIELD CONDITIONS DESCRIBED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 80 p 6

[Article by V. Verstakov, PRAVDA special correspondent: "The Camp, a Canvas City"]

[Text] Photographs of attacks and assaults, newspaper reports from subunits of the "Northern" and "Southern" forces, interviews with officers and general officers, and comments by foreign military observers -- all this can be found in the newspapers at the time of major field exercises. But large-scale exercises are not frequent events. The daily army routine includes equally difficult but unpublicized company, battalion, and regimental exercises. Sometimes they run for hours, and sometimes the troops remain in the field for an extended period, put up tents and establish a simple but intelligent military daily living routine. At various times I have observed motorized riflemen, airborne troops, tank crews and airmen at what would seem to be ordinary run-of-the mill exercises.... The following material deals with the people I have encountered in the field and with mock "engagements."

...It had been raining intermittently all day. The mountains surrounding the valley in which the tents had recently been pitched were indistinct dark objects looming out of the mist. It was surprising, but the pattering of the rain on the canvas tents, on the sheet metal roofs of the staff vehicles, and even on the slick, wet clay was more clearly audible than the incessant clatter of the portable diesel generator -- the somewhat noisy but dependable source of electricity for the camp. Looking out the rectangular window of the staff vehicle trailer, I could see a steel antenna amidst a gray spider web of guy wires, and under it a red shield bearing crossed yellow lightning bolts and the following words painted in white: "Communications are the nerves of the army." Spreading to the right and left of the communications center vehicles were rectangular and square tents; next to one of them stood two light UAZ vehicles with rain-darkened tops.

I emerged from the trailer onto a tent-city street. Once again the rain had abated, although from time to time I would step into clay-stained yellow rivulets. A guard in a wet military coat was hunched over by the headquarters tent. Next to the portable generator soldiers were sawing dry, twisted tree trunks. Firewood was scarce in this high desert, but firewood was essential, for without wood the hauled-in coal would not ignite in the stoves.

Scraping clay from my boots and wiping them against a thornbush, I walked toward the far tents -- where the reconnaissance scouts were quartered. They were the first to respond to the alert, the first to leave the garrison. Crossing snow-choked mountain passes, they "seized" bridges and tunnels and secured the advance of the main forces. They also descended into this valley 1 hour in advance -- that hour which is the most critical.

Pulling open a flap, I entered one of the reconnaissance scout tents. A potbellied stove was crackling merrily, and rolled-up mattresses were piled on an underlayer of coarse grass stalks along the canvas walls. Assault rifles were pyramid-stacked in the far corner, and to the left of the stove, next to the window, there was a folding table, at which a close-shorn senior lieutenant in a cotton field uniform was sitting and writing -- reconnaissance company commander Nikolay Alekhin.

We talked about the night march through the mountains.

"It was nothing special: we sent out a reconnaissance party, led by a scout vehicle, and when necessary we sent out foot patrols: we did our job. The men did a fine job. Take him, for example," Alekhin smiled, nodding toward a soldier who was warming his hands by the stove. "Pvt Vasiliiy Novoselov, hero of our time. Took the steep slopes and gorges like a mountain goat. A bold, knowledgeable lad."

Blushing in embarrassment, but not without a touch of pride, Vasiliiy related that prior to the exercise he had been requesting a transfer to another subunit, while now he realized that scouts are also important and that they do a real job. Novoselov is 19 years old, is a second-category athlete in boxing, volleyball and basketball, and has a passionate desire to serve where the job is most difficult. But he did not conceal the fact that when training, which in general had been running very smoothly at the garrison, suddenly presented the genuine difficulties of a mountain exercise, at first he was a little unsure of himself.

I discussed approximately the same subject 10 minutes later with blue-eyed, sharp-featured Sr Lt Valeriy Izmalkov, the subunit's political worker and a man of an abrupt and precise manner of speech, who had entered the tent.

"In these difficult conditions the boys showed themselves to be open, honest, and kind to one another," he stated. "They could just use a bit more decisiveness and aggressiveness. They are willing to take risks, but they have the feeling that this is a matter of some indeterminate time in the future, and yet military service demands this constantly."

Upon leaving the tent, I noticed that an alert-duty subunit was occupying perimeter defense foxholes....

Sometimes the very term "exercise" is confusing. As if as yet unskilled troops are taking to the field for the purpose of learning there the rudiments of combat. And one also has the tendency to assume that there is much at exercises which is unreal, not like in actual combat: the enemy is merely designated as such, they are firing only blank rounds at you, and one's commander is always right there to help and give advice. No -- a soldier learns in the classroom, on the post parade ground, at the firing range, and in the tank training area. In the field he is not even taking an examination but is working, with the highest degree of reality possible for an army in peacetime. If exercises did not approach potential actual combat operations in the physical and moral loads imposed, they would be a waste of time: why expend fuel, use up vehicle service life and pitch tent cities?

The field exercise is the hardest, most sweat-producing and most military period in the service of every soldier. It is true that a burst of hostile automatic fire will not send you to the floor of your foxhole, for the cartridges in the enemy's magazines are blank, minus slugs, but he was the first to fire, and you are henceforth defeated, and to be defeated is sometimes worse than to be dead.

...It is 0100 hours. The sky is overcast, with no stars to be seen; a light, dry snow is falling intermittently. Nikolay Ivanovich, a political worker who took me on a night check of the outposts, prohibited the driver from using the headlights or even the parking lights. From time to time the "UAZik" would slip off the rutted vehicle track, on which driver Aleksey Moiseyev would hopelessly shrug his shoulders, and then once again find the road on the basis of imperceptible signs. Finally figures in white camouflage robes loomed up alongside both forward doors of the vehicle, and another shadow took shape ahead of the vehicle.

"Halt, give the password...."

Nikolay Ivanovich responded with the proper number and illuminated his face with a flashlight. We stepped out into the darkness, shook hands in greeting with the officer in command of combat security, Sr Lt Sergey Muzychin. Speaking in a low voice, he gave us a concise situation briefing and then, speaking just as softly, gave instructions into the darkness: "Continue patrolling. I'll be on the right flank."

Again we proceeded along the road for quite some time, but this time on foot.

"Be careful here, footing is treacherous," warned Muzychin as we approached the edge of a deep trench, which was almost invisible in the gloom.

Nikolay Ivanovich jumped into the trench without pausing.

"Give me your hand, Muzychin, or you are sure to fall. How many times have you been on combat security duty? I come out here a lot."

Our eyes gradually became accustomed to the darkness and, after climbing into the trench, I could distinguish a close-by fighting bay, in which a soldier was semi-reclined behind a machinegun.

"Take this correspondent to the warming station," Muzychin ordered the soldier. "We'll take over for you in the meantime. Move."

The machinegunner led me down the trench to a cube-shaped canvas structure, under the low, sagging roof of which a candle was burning, coals were glowing in a small iron stove, and there was even a low bench fashioned out of a board supported by four bricks. A soldier who was warming his hands over the stove identified himself as Pvt Sergey Bazanov and in response to my questions replied that he had been in the military a year and that this year had been difficult but interesting. It was twice as interesting at a field exercise: previously he had been cognizant that he was serving in the military, but now he felt it in a realistic manner.

I asked him what he thought about when lying out here in a battle outpost -- on the snow, under the snow, and in almost total darkness. Sergey laughed: "I think about something pleasant and try to think of something ~~pleasant~~ in order not to fall asleep. But your eyes get used to the darkness. I look into a foxhole and can see every little pebble. Up there on the front line I particularly took an inventory of every single object. And of ~~course~~ we have good night vision devices; the darkness is no hindrance to them."

I took a look through one such instrument, mounted on a combat vehicle in a dug-in emplacement just back of the trench. The darkness parted, and the outline of the distant mountains danced lightly in a shimmering greenish haze....

Yes, it was true: there are not so many unrealistic elements at field exercises as sometimes appears to the outsider. And there are none at all for the rear services -- there is nothing but reality.

...The paratroopers had been assigned the mission of "capturing" an airfield at night and securing the landing of the main forces. The paratroopers did their job well, but as soon as the "engagement" was over, several men, slinging their assault rifles on their back, hurried over to some vehicles of a rather nonmilitary appearance: two mobile kitchens and a water truck. Soon the paratroopers were eating a hot-cooked breakfast -- they did not have to open their dry rations.

This was followed by a bath -- no stone stove, and inside a tent, but it was hot, and there was even steam. Soon all the daily amenities were

provided for, but this required considerable expenditure of labor. Was this labor expenditure justified, when one considers the generally brief duration of the settled life of an assault force?

I spoke about this matter with the regiment's chief of rear services. It was late at night. There simply had been no time for conversation during the day and evening; the rear services are that busy. The chief of rear services was seated on a stool, sewing an undercollar to a field uniform, and was ~~saying~~ at somebody, who was to blame for the fact that the regiment had no fresh vegetables.

"Paratroopers are men of simple taste, accustomed to difficulties. Having no vegetables will not kill us. The fact is that the men do not ask for gourmet items: they realize that under field conditions even porridge and tinned meat make pretty good fare. But I cannot ignore," Vyacheslav Yevgen'yevich, becoming angry, stopped sewing. "I cannot ignore the morale aspect of the rear services! A soldier should see that he being shown care and concern, that we are not simply supplying him but are serving him. Then he himself will work willingly and reliably. The problem does not lie in vegetables, although I shall take steps to ensure that tomorrow we have vegetables!"

As I was leaving the paratroopers, I was firm in the knowledge that I had met a fine person: I had met a thinking, talented individual, a person with pride, who has concern for the men as for his own sons. Just as I was about to leave I saw that stoves were being disassembled and taken from the tents. But the weather had not warmed up, and the exercise was not over....

"Our neighbors are freezing. They did not provide for themselves in time," the chief of rear services explained. "We have two stoves in each tent and decided to give them half of what we have. Why should people freeze because of some negligent person in the rear services? No problem. I talked to the boys, and they agreed."

Things are a'ways difficult at a field exercise. And it is difficult for everybody. Staff officers pore sleeplessly over maps, and political workers go from subunit to subunit, spending hours and days on end at the front lines. The motorized riflemen freeze in the foxholes and become exhausted in the vigorous assaults. The tank crews push their way through snowdrifts and maintain a precarious balance on mountain roads. Things are difficult for the communications personnel, artillerymen, combat engineers -- officers and enlisted personnel of all military occupational specialties. In mountain terrain the helicopter crews have the toughest job.

If an avalanche cuts off a subunit, separating it for hours, and perhaps for days from the main forces, helicopters will come to the rescue, delivering food, ammunition and fuel. If a commander must quickly conduct personal reconnaissance, he will be carried by helicopter. They will distribute the mail and relieve patrols at remote mountain posts.... But the main job of the helicopters is reconnaissance, delivery of heliborne assault troops, and fire support.

The engines rev up, and the rotor blades slice through the air, forming a diffuse gray disk. Poised for liftoff, the heavy aircraft rocks back and forth like a boat on an ocean swell, slowly rises from the ground, and hovers. I look out a side window of the helicopter and see the lead helicopter veer left, skimming a meter off the ground. An instant later both aircraft are heading left and climbing. This squat steel bird -- not a bird, not even a dragonfly -- but rather a swiftly-moving triangle -- is in flight among blinding-white, snow-covered mountains sparkling in the sunlight.

Within a few minutes after liftoff the flight deck door opens wide and flight technician Sr Lt [redacted] Khryk reports to the staff officer: "Objective ahead to the left!"

Today's mission is to locate the "aggressor," who according to preliminary information lies concealed in a gorge, and precisely to determine his forces and numerical strength. The helicopter commander, Capt Vitaliy Zaborko, decided to drop down and fly through the gorge for a closer look, and then, regaining altitude, to continue right over the ridge cutting across our course.

Closer and closer we dropped toward the sinuous, downward-widening gorge. And now we were plunging into the dark abyss, the roar of the helicopter's engine resounding off the rocky cliffs. The staff officer leaned over toward the wide-open hatch, and his assistants pressed their faces to the side windows. A frosty mountain wind lashed into the aircraft.

The steeply rising terrain was approaching with extreme rapidity, but the helicopter showed no signs of intention to climb. Suddenly the floor pressed against our feet and an invisible force crushed against our chest, attempting to topple us. Up ahead we could see only snow, rocks, and a few gnarled trees... Would we be able to gain enough altitude to clear the ridge?

...The helicopters landed to refuel. While the tank trucks made their way toward us across the freshly-fallen snow, we climbed out for a smoke. Our pilot-navigator, Lt Sergey Reutov, formed snowballs and tossed them lightly upward, where they were shattered by the still-turning blades. I pulled Vitaliy Zaborko aside and asked him right out whether the maneuver had been dangerous, since we had cleared the ridge by only a few meters.

"Not really: our helicopters are quite reliable."

"But was there a risk?"

"Of course there was. After all, this is a field exercise!"

3024

CSO: 1801

VETERANS' BENEFITS: SHORTCOMINGS NOTED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 3

[Article by G. Bandrovskiy, First Secretary, L'vov City Committee, Communist Party of the Ukraine: "Remember and Cherish: Concern for War Veterans -- the Duty of All of Us"]

[Text] Six years ago the "Friends of the Front" club was formed in L'vov. Members of this all-female club included former 18th Army signalman N. Naychuk, pilot E. Plotnichenko, antiaircraft gunner A. Yasinskaya, scout-radio operator Ye. Vologodskaya, and others. Last year alone 20,000 pupils from the city's general-curriculum and trade-technical schools attended get-togethers with the members of this club. These combat veterans can be seen at official ceremonies at which conscripts are given a send-off to military service, and in torch processions to Glory Hill.

They are helping to indoctrinate the younger generation in a spirit of dedication to their socialist homeland.

There are presently in our city more than 120 councils of veterans of the Civil War and Great Patriotic War, as well as many regimental veteran groups. The city party committee has set up a coordination council for military-patriotic indoctrination.

"We shall bear a memory of you in our hearts forever, dear veterans. Your feats and your love of our native land will always be for us a lodestar in all things. We shall never turn from the road laid down by our fathers, a road which leads to a wonderful future -- communism." The above is quoted from a letter sent to the veterans' section of the city Soviet by a group of pupils at Vocational and Technical School 28 following a get-together with war veterans.

The party city committee is cognizant every day of the help being given by war veterans in the conduct of ideological work among the public. They are a great treasure and resource, living history, memory. This city's party and Soviet agencies, trade union and Komsomol organizations endeavor to pay due respect and attention to each and every war veteran. War veterans are given special treatment at their place of employment. A number of organizations

and establishments have set up councils to render material assistance to disabled war veterans, and patron activities are conducted. At the Kineskop Production Association, for example, assigned work forces are patrons of disabled veterans.

Considerable work has been done to improve living conditions for veterans. At the beginning of the 10th Five-Year Plan disabled veterans, families of military personnel who were killed in action, and female war veterans without families, who had been on the housing list in the executive committees of the city or rayon Soviets, as well as at enterprises and establishments, were provided housing. More than 1,100 new apartment units have been given to war veterans in the first four years of the current five-year plan.

Matters pertaining to practical implementation of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree of 10 November 1978 entitled "On Measures for Further Improvement of Material-Living Conditions for Veterans of the Great Patriotic War" are regularly discussed at bureau meetings of the city and rayon party committees. Future working plans have been ratified, calling for concrete measures to improve material conditions for former military personnel, medical, and other services for these persons. Commissions made up of party, Soviet and Komsomol agency officials and representatives of health, trade and social security services have been established under the executive committees of the city and rayon Soviets to monitor implementation of this decree.

Recently the party city committee bureau determined initial results of efforts to implement the party and government decree on war veterans. In 1979 alone major repairs were performed in more than 1,000 apartments tenanted by the families of war veterans. The families of war veterans S. Bobrenko, V. Seleznev, Ya. Shipitsyn, V. Krustalev and many others are among those who have recently moved into new apartments.

In 1979 153 automobiles were sold to war veterans, 880 telephones were installed in war veterans' apartments, and more than 350 persons were found employment.

Medical care of war veterans is improving. Last year approximately 1,000 former military personnel were sent to sanatoria, preventive clinics, rest houses, and balneological hospitals.

Garden cooperatives are being formed, and in the course of a single year more than 120 veterans have joined such cooperatives.

However, instances of a lip service-bureaucratic attitude toward the needs of war veterans and a thoughtless attitude toward examining and satisfying their requests have been encountered in the activities of certain Soviet agencies and certain enterprise and organization officials, their party and trade union committees. In the Chervonoarmeyskiy and Radyanskiy rayon executive committees and in the executive committee of the L'vov City Soviet, for example, there were cases of unjustified refusals to place war veterans

on a housing list, and there was bureaucratic delay in approving apartment repairs and telephone installation. In this city there are still families of war veterans which are living in apartments lacking utilities and public services. On the whole more than 200 war veterans and 190 families of military personnel killed in action require improved housing conditions. The rayon executive committees are still being slow about assigning veterans garden plots.

The facts of certain cases of this kind were correctly stated in an article entitled "Callousness Hurts," which appeared in the 22 July 1979 issue of PRAVDA. On the whole this article correctly raises the question of the need for a more solicitous attitude toward veterans of the Great Patriotic War and, in particular, greater concern for and efforts to assign them decent housing. The PRAVDA article was discussed at the city executive committee, at party meetings, at a conference of the administrative edifice of the party city committee, and at a bureau meeting of the L'vovskaya Oblast Party Committee. A number of officials guilty of formalism in meeting the housing needs of war veterans were meted out administrative and party punishment. We must note, however, that cases occur where the authors of letters, included letters written to PRAVDA, lay unwarranted claims to special privileges and benefits specified for war veterans.

Soviet citizens were extremely grateful to learn that the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government recently issued a decree ordering additional measures to improve material and living conditions for veterans of the Great Patriotic War. The 35th anniversary of victory by the Soviet people over fascist Germany is approaching. And once again, as always, we shall see in the front ranks of the columns of holiday marchers and on the presidia of official holiday meetings veterans of the Great Patriotic War, who are dear to our hearts. It is our duty to do everything possible to ensure that their faces are always illuminated by a smile.

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CSO: 1801

AVIATION: INTERCEPTOR TRAINING EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 1, Jan 80 signed to press 12 Dec 79
p 8-9

[Article by Lt Col Ye. Chumakov: "Interceptors Operate at Night"]

[Text] At Maximum Parameters

"This is 193, ready for takeoff!" The voice of squadron commander Lt Col Yu. Makarov was coming from the speaker. I tried to form a mental picture of his kind, somewhat sly, laughing eyes. No, at this moment they were different: stern, vigilant. Burning with resolve....

"193 cleared for takeoff!"

The stillness was shattered by the roar of turbines. We could not see the interceptor's silhouette. All we could see was a wedge-shaped crimson flame rushing down the runway. The aircraft lifted off and surged skyward, the sound dying down as it was gradually swallowed in the blackness of the sky.

The pilots call the high-altitude drone tricky, because of its capricious, complicated character. Almost every time it appears where it is not expected. And although it has given the pilots a hard time and has made things difficult even for interceptor pilots of acknowledged excellence, they show a deferential attitude toward it. A cunning "adversary," someone with whom to match wits and capabilities. And this combat is keenly interesting because it offers no similar or standard situations. Just like real combat. There is only one unrealistic element, dictated by the laws of peacetime -- the target, when attacked, will not return fire.

The missile-armed aircraft was now a few hundred meters from the tropopause. Yuriy Mikhaylovich Makarov knew from the weather briefing that the temperature aloft was below normal today. This should have an effect on aircraft acceleration, and the squadron commander sought to increase his rate of climb. Finally the aircraft crossed that invisible boundary beyond which there occurs neither obscuring dust nor haze, where stars can be seen even at noon through the transparent air.

A brief report came from the ground: "Drone airborne!"

Seconds of waiting -- seconds of total lack of information. He craned his neck and peered intently in every direction, but saw nothing. Suddenly he heard the voice of the GCI controller: Capt M. Feyzulin gave the pilot the target's course and altitude. The situation immediately became challenging: the target was indeed being capricious. Its parameters were far beyond the calculated performance envelope. They were almost twice those determined in practice.

The "aggressor" presented a problem... An additional time reserve was necessary to overtake it, but no such reserve was available. There was only one possibility: wring every ounce of performance from his aircraft, flying it at the very design and dynamic limits. This would be difficult. Exceptionally precise, coordinated control was essential, as well as composure and audacity in solving tactical problems.

Target interception is a group task, and friendship between pilot and command post GCI controller and their mutual understanding are of great importance. Earlier, during preliminary briefing and preparation for the training missions and live-fire activities, the squadron commander had reached an agreement with the GCI controller that the latter would not distract him with excessively frequent information and would only communicate the most essential information. He was now mentally thanking Feyzulin for the concise communications:

"193, course..., altitude...."

During the tense moments of the intercept, it was as if Yuriy Mikhaylovich was observing his aircraft from a different vantage point. It was not easy for the aircraft to carry out the will of the pilot, who had resolved to get every ounce of performance from it! To a certain degree he was taking a risk, but it was a justified, calculated risk. First of all, the target had to be destroyed at all costs, and secondly, the pilot's experience and inner composure enabled him to forestall any possible critical situation. Cautiously but firmly holding the aircraft to the required performance parameters, and holding it back from wing-stalling, the pilot surged the aircraft swiftly ahead. Searching for the "aggressor," he also made maximum use of the capabilities of the airborne radar. There it was! The target blip smoothly moved into the center of the radar sight's electronic ring. Light pressure on the button, a flash of flame under the wing, and a distant explosion out there in the darkness.

Target intercept at the specified point and a precise, devastating attack -- this is a fine tradition born during the last war, and a stern binding requirement on the pilot. And Lieutenant Colonel Makarov met this demand, proving that the fighter pilots of the combat-decorated Moscow Air Defense District are capable of destroying any adversary in any combat situation.

The "Aggressor" Plays on One's Nerves

As the second phase of the exercise was about to begin, the weather was tailored for "all-weather" fighters -- it had been drizzling with brief interruptions since morning, muting the somber landscape of russet sands and naked black cliffs. Some of the men were apprehensive: what if they postponed the gunnery exercise?

By the designated time, however, cloud bases had risen considerably, and the clouds began breaking up. The range officer personally went up to check out the weather. He flew over the range, took a look around, returned to the field and walked over to the briefing room. He reported that the weather was unstable and moving. Clouds were building up forward of the firing area. He concluded: "We shall be flying combat missions in instrument weather."

It was night. Cold air was blowing down from the mountains. The concrete airfield surface glistened with puddles. Fighters were taxiing to the active, raising fountains of spray and dissipating them with their hot exhaust blast. Lt Col Viktor Vasil'yevich Shishkov had just returned from a mock combat mission, and he was now animatedly relating his experience.

"I spotted the target before my flight leader. There it was right in front of me. Nothing to do but engage and blast it! But in the sky, just as on the ground, one must wait one's turn... I was given a new heading, that is, pulled out. Trunov attacked the target. The 'aggressor' proved tough to destroy. He was taking hits, but he was still in the air! Now it was my turn. The target blip was on my scope. I closed, aimed, and fired!" Shishkov made a chopping motion with his hand. "As I was pulling out there was a bright flash somewhat off to the side. And then once again black sky. That was it, the target had been destroyed!"

The engagement was notable in that at the very outset, while the fighters were still on the ground, the attack had been planned at a large angle of approach, that is, at a large angle to the target's line of flight. It was a difficult attack. The target would be held in the airborne radar sight only for a few seconds. But these few seconds were sufficient for such a combat expert as Lieutenant Colonel Shishkov. The target was intercepted and downed at the specified point.

Following a brief respite, Viktor Vasil'yevich once again bustled out to his "Twelve." The ground crew technician, Senior Lieutenant Technical Service Suslov, reported: "Your aircraft is ready to go!"

"Thank you, lieutenant," the pilot replied, and then added with a smile: "Such a nice-looking boy, we've got to find a wife for you."

Suslov responded with lyrics from a well-known song: "The most important thing, the most important thing is the aircraft...."

Within minutes Shishkov was in the air. He was to engage an "aggressor" in the stratosphere. The pilot reported reaching the designated altitude. The target would soon be in sight. Suddenly the unexpected: "The target has failed to take off!"

The news went out by radio, to the flight line and the area where the pilots who had completed their missions, technicians and mechanics were gathered. The deputy political section chief laid aside an almost-ready "lightning" news bulletin....

What was the problem? Why had the target failed to get airborne? Could the range pyrotechnics specialists have fouled up? That was out of the question, for they were experts. It was then learned that it was called for by the scenario. The subunits were operating in a situation maximally approaching actual combat, almost like in real war. And things like this certainly happened during the war! A group would scramble to repulse an enemy air attack, but no engagements would take place. The enemy, learning that Soviet fighters were waiting for his bombers, would retarget them or turn them back. It seemed to the pilots that their mission was wasted. It also seemed that way to Shishkov. But that is wrong. Both during the war and today, under conditions of actual combat, the "aggressor" may suddenly abandon his plans. And in this case he indeed did so. But in this situation as well Lieutenant Colonel Shishkov provided reliable protection to the defended installation at the specified point.

Naturally the air warrior was now in a less joyful mood, for he was compelled to return home with a full load of ordnance. It was a shame that all his enthusiasm and iron resolve had gone for naught! The "aggressor" had gotten on his nerves.

"Forget about it, Viktor Vasil'yevich. Dawn is many hours off, you will fly another mission," the pilot's comrades reassured him. You'll get a chance to prove your skill...."

Indeed, the technician and mechanic barely had time to ready the fighter for another mission when Lieutenant Colonel Shishkov was scrambled a third time. He put into a devastating attack everything which had built up inside him during those wasted minutes of the previous mission. And once again ominous flashes lit up the black depths of the sky.

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DOSAAF: PRODUCTION PLANT ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 1, Jan 80 signed to press 12 Dec 79 pp 16-17

[Article by Engineer V. Tur'yan, KRYL'YA RODINY special correspondent, Gomel': "New Plant in Gomel'"]

[Text] The Gomel' Model Construction Kit and DOSAAF Training Aids Plant is being renovated. Originally this plant repaired and overhauled sport aircraft. It later began turning out model airplane building materials and kits. At that time the enterprise was producing 200,000 rubles worth of goods a year, while today the figure is seven times that. The plant produces 17 different model airplane kits, propellers out of beechwood, airplane motor rubber bands, three different model shipbuilding kits, and small boats.

It is no exaggeration when we say that a new plant is being built in Gomel'.

DOSAAF, carrying out the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree entitled "On Measures to Increase Manufacture of Goods for Children, Improve Their Quality and Merchandising of These Goods," as well as the resolutions of the Eighth USSR DOSAAF Congress, is constantly improving facilities.

The Eighth Congress drew attention to the fact that capital construction continues to be a cornerstone element in the current five-year plan.

...The new buildings and bays of the Gomel' Plant shops have risen up alongside the old ones. The main building is a four-bay structure, each bay measuring 90 meters in length and 18 meters in width. This bay width makes it possible most efficiently to place all machine tools and other equipment taking into consideration the demands of the manufacturing processes. Materials handling equipment and an elaborate ventilation system will soon be installed. Ventilation is particularly important for those sections where wood is processed. The latest advances in construction technology were utilized in designing both the main building and the administration-services building. We should mention the sealed partitions, which absorb a good part of the noise, as well as the well-designed floor-ceiling spans in the bays.

Production sections in which wood, metal, and plastics are processed and where model airplane motors are built will be located in the main building. Manufacturing processes are being set up taking into account the achievements of science and technology. It is interesting to note that in the new woodworking section there will be an annual production capability of 2,800,000 rubles, double the present figure. And the entire production volume will be five times the present figure!

Particular attention is focused on improving the quality of the parts, materials and kits the plant turns out, while quality is directly dependent on the condition of the production equipment. For example, 32 new machine tools and high-output drying chambers are being installed in the woodworking section, while all metal parts requiring hardening and coating will go to the heat-treatment and electroplating departments. In addition to the other equipment, 141 metal-machining and woodworking tools will be installed in the new bays.

Each work station is being designed taking into account the demands of industrial health and hygiene as well as industrial aesthetics.

First priority goes to concern for people, the enterprise's employees. A good solution, for example, has been found for the complex ventilation system, which removes wood dust and fumes from the shops. All bays are well-lit due to the employment of top glazing in the form of KAMAZ skylights, which efficiently concentrate natural exterior light and are simple in operation.

The administration-services building contains a dining hall, locker rooms, showers, medical aid office, technical library with reading room, and an auditorium. An abundance of light, wide, spacious halls, and an efficient layout will create excellent, comfortable working conditions.

The plant grounds are nicely landscaped, with the old greenery preserved.

The most valuable and decisive resource at the plant is its people.

"Some began their careers here, while other are still working here," stated enterprise director Yuriy Ivanovich Khankevich. "Cardboard cutter party member Nina Andreyevna Kiriyenko is highly respected by the rest of the work force," he continued. "She is a shock worker of Communist labor and holds the Order of Labor Glory, 3d Class. Wrapper Miliya Nazarovna Kostyusheva has been employed here more than 23 years. Lyudmila Petrovna Grechukha, Mariya Petrovna Kulagova, and shop foreman Taisiya Ivanovna Bondarenko rank among the top production workers. Ivan Nikolayevich Solomashenko's initial processing section machine tool operators brigade meets its target every month by 115-140%. And there are many such outstanding workers. For example, there is our inventor Mikhail Aronovich Kheyfets. He designed and built a versatile machine for turning out stripwood of any dimensions from 2.5 x 2.5 to 15 x 15 mm. One can scarcely exaggerate the significance of this machine for boosting labor productivity and improving the quality of our stripwood products.

"But we still do have some problems," Comrade Khankevich continued. "Our suppliers often let us down. We are experiencing production difficulties due to a lack of 0.3 mm diameter steel wire. Of the 6.3 tons needed for 1979, only 0.45 ton was delivered in the first seven months of the year.

"We of course are overcoming our difficulties. The USSR DOSAAF Central Committee has drafted a plan of measures pertaining to completing construction of this plant and putting the new production areas into operation. We are cognizant of the continuous assistance by the Gomel'skaya Oblast DOSAAF Committee (V. Burmistrov, chairman) which, jointly with city Komsomol organizations, has enlisted student construction detachments to work on this project. In addition, 15-20 person detachments of students enrolled at DOSAAF organizations are taking part in Saturday and Sunday volunteer work days. There is no reason why we cannot complete this important construction project on schedule!"

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SOVIET COMMENTS ON U.S. STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 2, Feb 80 signed to press 11 Jan 80
p 28

[Article by P. Ivanov: "Nuclear Wings of the Pentagon"]

[Text] Near the city of Omaha in the state of Nevada [sic], at Offutt Air Force Base, there stands a very large, elongated three-story building of quite unremarkable appearance. But its exterior is highly deceiving. The bulk of this concrete structure is underground. Here is located the command center of the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC).

The newspaper AIR FORCE has boasted that "the very location of the command center in the central part of the United States, halfway between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, makes it practically impregnable." According to this newspaper, personnel are on duty here around the clock. It is precisely from this facility that various commands are dispatched out each day to dozens of air bases thickly scattered about the Continental United States, the Pacific, and at other overseas locations.

"It happened on a Sunday," states AIR FORCE. "An alarm sounded at 1750 hours at a Strategic Air Command base. The pilots, who were relaxing at the officers' club, ran for the jeeps standing ready. Within minutes they were at their B-52 heavy bombers which were standing on the flight line. The wail of siren mingled with the roar of aircraft engines. In the cockpits of the five alert-status aircraft, the pilots proceeded to decode commands received from the command center, and only after this did they learn that it was a practice alert and that they would not be delivering a nuclear payload to targets on enemy territory. At 1800 hours the first B-52 crew was ready for takeoff. Within 3 minutes the other crews had reported ready for takeoff, and only then was the alert terminated. The commander of the Fifth Bomber Wing, Col James D. Gormley, proceeded to critique the pilots' performance."

But that which took place quite recently was of a patently provocational nature.

A combat alert was sounded at 52 air bases in the Continental United States and Hawaii. A total of 120,000 military personnel responded to the alert, and more than 850 combat aircraft went into action, including B-52 heavy bombers and ICBM units. Several days later the Pentagon announced initiation of a large-scale military display by the U.S. Air Force, code-named "Global Shield."

Responding to a command by SAC Headquarters, the bomber crews climbed to an altitude of 18,000 meters and commenced procedures which would terminate in delivery of nuclear strikes on prior-studied targets in the socialist countries. Simultaneously ICBMs were launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, targeted into the Atlantic. They included Minuteman-2 missiles, which have a range of 11,000 kilometers.

B-52 crews first began this highly dangerous game in 1978 as part of NATO's annual militaristic displays in Western Europe under the code name "Autumn Forge." Already then, as stated by U.S. General John Pauly, Commander of NATO Joint Air Forces in Central Europe, crews were training to destroy targets by "horizontal bombing." The U.S. Air Force extensively utilized precisely such tactics in Vietnam.

As was reported by the West German newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, at Rammstein Air Force Base, where the U.S. Air Force's 7th Division is based, a headquarters was set up for training B-52 crews in Western European airspace. It was assigned two KC-135 air tanker squadrons, which are presently based in England.

The newspaper enthusiastically described the cold-blooded murderers in U.S. Air Force uniform who dropped the latest superbombs on Vietnamese cities, towns and villages on orders from the Pentagon. "The B-52 bomber," the newspaper related, "climbed rapidly. Twenty minutes later the pilot switched on the autopilot and proceeded to read a detective novel. The 1st lieutenant seated alongside him was leafing through a military newspaper. The rest of the crew members were drinking coffee. Seven hours after taking off from the U.S. Air Force base on the Island of Guam, the three B-52 crews were over Vietnam. Finally they released their bombs, by simply pushing a button. They could see nothing from the air, while down below the target was taking hits. At this same time the crew was proceeding to take a meal in the aircraft's galley." Not a word about the criminal actions being perpetrated, about the destruction of innocent women and children.

The fact that the crew members of B-52 bombers were transformed into real murderers during the war in Vietnam and have remained such is attested by their personal admissions. It is appropriate in connection with this to recall a statement by Edwin Schenk, commander of a U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber: "I feel that I had become a real murderer," he wrote his wife soon after he was shot down over Vietnam. "I feel no pity whatsoever... and I do not even attempt to analyze why this is so. There are no reasons whatsoever. I see the target and use all my skill and ability to destroy it."

One of the characteristic features of the moral countenance of U.S. flight personnel is a passionate desire to achieve personal wealth, cultivated and inculcated by the American "way of life," and the endeavor to achieve gain at any price. When B-52 crew members Major Cular and Captain Gillespie were asked whether they were disturbed by the killing of hundreds of thousands of civilians, they cynically replied: "That does not bother us. It is our job, our living. We personally do not kill anybody. Computers do it for us. We merely monitor the computer, which was programmed on the ground, to ensure that it is operating correctly."

A correspondent from the newspaper AIR FORCE asked U.S. General Bruce Holloway, who for many years headed the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command: "General, you are constantly living on the brink of war, since you have at your disposal a vast nuclear arsenal -- does all this affect your state of nerves?" General Holloway replied without hesitation: "I am accustomed to all this. This situation has become a part of my life. I compare it with the job of a construction worker who calmly sits and eats his lunch at his work station."

According to a report in the NEW YORK TIMES, the Strategic Air Command possesses more than 1,000 intercontinental ballistic missiles, more than 500 B-52 strategic bombers, and approximately 70 FB-111 medium strategic bombers. The Pentagon has commenced a program of modernization of 150 B-52 strategic bombers for the purpose of using them as strategic cruise missile launch platforms, to carry 20 missiles each. The Pentagon has already received from the U.S. Congress approximately 10 million dollars for the purpose of building 3,000 cruise missiles and modernizing B-52 bombers. The first squadron of these bombers will be operational by the beginning of 1982.

A statement made by prominent U.S. expert on military problems R. Barnett indicates where the Pentagon is targeting these cruise missiles: "Adoption of the cruise missile opens up the way to mount a practically unlimited number of nuclear-warhead strikes against the Soviet Union from forward-based launch platforms surrounding Soviet territory."

The Pentagon goes even further. It is reported in the foreign press that U.S. military leaders intend in the 1980's to develop new strategic bombers of one or two types, and to develop new strategic systems with more powerful nuclear warheads. Particular attention is being devoted to beefing up the U.S. Air Force's nuclear wings in Western Europe. In addition to training the crews of B-52 strategic bombers in European airspace, the Pentagon intends to continue rearming NATO air forces in Western Europe with the latest F-15 and F-111 fighter-bombers and to deploy 600 Pershing-2 nuclear missiles.

"Let us speak frankly," stated Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in his speech in Berlin on 6 October of last year. "Implementation of these plans would substantially alter the strategic situation in Europe."

The Soviet people, the peoples of the brother socialist countries, and all progressive mankind are keeping vigilant watch over the intrigues of the aggressive forces of imperialism and the bosses of the NATO military-political bloc. The following words are ringing out increasingly more resolutely with each passing day: "Put a halt to the arms race! Say no to new mass-killing weapons!"

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SOVIET COMMENTS ON U.S. CARRIER, BASE STRATEGY

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 3, Mar 80 signed to press 13 Feb 80
p 27

[Article by Z. Davydov: "Aircraft Carrier Diplomacy and Base Strategy"]

[Text] At the end of last year and at the beginning of this year foreign newspapers were full of reports akin to summaries of military operations. Here are a few of them: "A group of warships led by the aircraft carrier 'Kitty Hawk,' carrying 85 aircraft, has reached the coast of Iran from the U.S. naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines.... Combat helicopters were delivered to the carrier from a base on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean...."

"Egyptian President Sadat has offered the Pentagon use of air bases on the Sinai Peninsula. Israel has with equal generosity offered use of its airfields to the United States...."

"The first U.S. commandos delivered by Hercules transport aircraft, have landed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia's principal oil port on the Persian Gulf."

And as if summarizing all the above, the WASHINGTON POST reported: "There has not been such a large concentration of U.S. naval forces in the waters adjacent to Iran since World War II. It is reported that the aircraft carried on board the carriers (more than 350, for the most part fighter-bombers) are capable of attacking the most diversified targets in Iran. These aircraft can deliver," the newspaper continues, "both nuclear bombs capable of destroying large areas such as oilfields, and special bombs which will put individual oil refineries out of commission."

Here we have a crude and frank display of the typically imperialist policy of unrestrained military pressure and threat of use of force against those who do not wish meekly to knuckle under to the U.S. dictate. Once such policy was called "gunboat diplomacy." Today gunboats are out of date, relics of the past, but this equally obsolete policy of military pressure continues to remain in the arsenal of the imperialist bosses. Perhaps it should today be called "aircraft carrier diplomacy."

And this is happening precisely at a time when the UN General Assembly vigorously condemns in a resolution adopted at the initiative of the Soviet Union "a policy of pressure, threat of force or employment of force, direct or indirect aggression, occupation, as well as the expanding practice of open or concealed interference and intervention in a country's internal affairs." It is not surprising that the United States was one of only four countries which voted against this resolution.

U.S. ruling circles, who claim leadership over the rest of the world and demand its subordination to their own selfish interests, are placing their hopes principally on military force. "The peace which we desire," states President Carter, "is a peace of the strong." His national security advisor, Z. Brzezinski, adds more precisely: "U.S. military might should be capable of defending our most important interests abroad, including the three vitally important strategic zones outside our hemisphere: Western Europe, the Near East, and the Far East."

U.S. hegemonism has now adopted such an aggressive form of real threat to all countries and peoples. The Washington bosses ground their boundless claims to world leadership on the "exclusive nature of our historic mission," while in actual fact they seek to make all foreign countries serve the needs of Uncle Sam. And if they dare resist, military force should be used against them.

Implementing "carrier diplomacy" and expanding their military presence, the Pentagon and White House attach great importance to strengthening the system of their air, naval, intelligence-gathering and all other bases in various parts of the world. These wasp's nests of U.S. aggression dot a map of the world like a typhus rash -- there are more than 400 military bases and hundreds of auxiliary bases.

U.S. base strategy is directed primarily against the nations of the socialist community. A string of military garrisons, airfields, gun and missile launcher positions, and "forward-based weapons" extend for hundreds of kilometers along their borders. According to figures in the foreign press, these weapons include hundreds of Pershing missiles, 500 naval aircraft, 160 F-111 bombers, and tactical aircraft (approximately 700). But even this is not enough for the Pentagon strategists. They have embarked upon an extensive campaign of "arming NATO up to proper levels," and deployment in Western Europe of a new U.S. medium-range nuclear missile weapon capable of hitting targets in the Soviet Union.

This campaign is being waged under the hue and cry around that same old alleged "Soviet threat." Comrade L. I. Brezhnev offered a fitting rebuff to these initiators of a new round of arms escalation, to these pushers of war psychosis in his replies to questions asked him by the weekly magazine VORWAERTS.

"It is not we but the United States which has established dozens of military bases with bombers and submarines armed with nuclear and other long-range

weapons, extending in a sinister chain along the borders of the USSR and our allies on the south and north, west and east," stressed Leonid Il'ich. "I should like to suggest that those who are today sowing the seeds of invented fear and hysteria in connection with the natural defensive measures taken by the USSR, as well as those who believe these panic mongers, briefly in their minds put themselves in the place of Soviet citizens, for our country has been surrounded by these bases for several decades now. It would be interesting to see what these weak-nerved gentlemen would say in such a situation."

In spite of the Soviet Union's warning and mass protests by the international community, the Brussels meeting of the NATO Council at the end of last year nevertheless made the dangerous decision to produce and deploy in Western Europe the new U.S. nuclear missile weapons. The world was witness to Washington's unprecedented crudeness in forcing this decision on its European partners and the employment of the method of "arm twisting" on them.

Emissaries of the Pentagon roved about the countries of Western Europe, urging, insisting, and threatening. Some did not need to be urged and convinced. The British Conservatives, for example. We should mention that the British Government, after the notorious Fulton, Missouri speech by Winston Churchill, principal organizer of the "cold war," as early as 1948 offered airfields in East Anglia for basing U.S. B-29 bombers. Those same bombers which at the time were the sole carriers of atomic weapons and which had turned Hiroshima and Nagasaki into ashes. And now, according to reports in the London newspapers, the Conservative Government of the "Iron Lady," Margaret Thatcher, has given its consent to the deployment at air bases in East Anglia of 160 U.S. ground-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles.

U.S. base strategy is increasingly involving the Indian Ocean, a region containing one third of the earth's population. In 1971 the UN General Assembly passed a resolution declaring the Indian Ocean a peace zone. Washington was compelled to subscribe to this resolution not only in word but also to participate in 1977 in U.S.-Soviet talks on limiting military activities in the Indian Ocean. For almost 2 years now, however, the United States has been in fact boycotting these talks. The magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT reported frankly that, according to statements made by Pentagon officials, the agreement which could be reached in the course of these talks would not give the United States the opportunity to build up its military might in that region and to mount massive displays of force like that which it is carrying out in connection with tensions in U.S.-Iranian relations.

According to Pentagon plans, a carrier-led naval task force will be permanently stationed in the Indian Ocean. In other words, another fleet is being set up specially for this region. Efforts are being pushed ahead swiftly at modernizing and considerably expanding the strategic military base on the island of Diego Garcia. Already completed are runways for B-52 long-range bombers, a deep-water anchorage for attack carriers, huge ammunition and fuel storage depots, as well as communications and electronic intelligence facilities.

To support the conduct of military actions abroad, the Pentagon has drawn up a plan for establishment of special floating bases which would be deployed in strategically important areas. As is reported by General P. Kelly, a top Marine Corps official, it is planned to construct 16 such floating arsenals, equipped with tanks, artillery, fuel, ammunition and food stores. Thousands of Marines with small arms will be able to be quickly airlifted to a "crisis" area, and will be able to obtain from floating bases in that area all other equipment and supplies sufficient for conducting 30 days of self-contained combat operations.

An important role is assigned to expanding the U.S. military presence in the Pacific. Numerous U.S. air and naval bases in Japan are relying on the growing militarist attitudes among that country's ruling circles. Japanese-American military cooperation is increasing, and joint maneuvers and exercises are being held. The "island belt" of military bases in the Philippines, Hawaii, in the Marshalls and Marianas is also being beefed up.

The events of recent months have pushed out of the limelight one more outrageous militarist action by the United States, conducted last fall in the Caribbean. We are speaking of the escalation of the U.S. military presence in that region, establishment by the Pentagon of a Caribbean task force, and the provocation landing, under air cover, of 2,200 Marines at the naval base at Guantanamo which is being illegally held by the United States on Cuban territory. As Defense Secretary H. Brown stated, the objective of these actions was to "demonstrate our combat capabilities in the Caribbean region, which is historically a U.S. sphere of special concern."

Just what is causing their "special concern"? First and foremost the growing international prestige and influence of free Cuba, overthrow of the bloody Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua, and the intensifying movement of the masses in a number of Latin American countries against the corrupt regimes of Washington stooges. Neither displays of force, nor the Pentagon's numerous bases, nor counting on the most reactionary forces of the South American continent can halt this historical process.

The Colombian magazine ALTERNATIVA quite correctly assessed the fruitlessness of U.S. attempts to intimidate peoples and to compel them to give up the national liberation struggle: "Strengthening its military presence in this region, Washington is vainly attempting to hold back the political hurricane which has recently been battering at the foundations of U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean and Central America."

J. Carter's widely-publicized 5-year program of buildup of military strength as well as his January Message to Congress, cynical in its unconcealed aggressiveness, show that the United States of America is moving ever further from détente and is slipping more and more to a position of establishment of U.S. military superiority. But history cannot be turned back.

The carrier diplomacy and base strategy of U.S. imperialism are doomed to failure. They fail to be in conformity with the present world situation and are contrary to the aspirations of the peoples of all countries toward peace, freedom, and independence.

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AVIATION: HELICOPTER DEVELOPMENT DESCRIBED

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 3, Mar 80 signed to press 13 Feb 80 pp 28-29, based on materials in the foreign press

[Article by V. Biryulin: "Development of Helicopters"]

[Text] Dear Editor! Many different helicopters are presently being built in all countries. Please discuss development trends in this class of aircraft.

T. Samakhradze, Fitter-Assembler, Tbilisi

The helicopter was born approximately 50 years ago. During these 50 years helicopters have gone through all stages of development -- from experimental craft which could barely lift off the ground, to high-speed, highly-maneuverable aircraft capable of carrying, both inside the aircraft and externally-slung, many-ton payloads distances of hundreds of kilometers. The continuous improvement of helicopter design has expanded many times over the range of their application in the military and civilian economy. The helicopter has begun to be called "the machine of 100 professions."

The period running from the first flights of rotary-wing aircraft up to World War II encompassed the prehistory of helicopters, as it were. The real history -- rapid improvement in design, series and later mass production, began in the postwar years. The American companies Sikorsky and Bell were among the first foreign aircraft companies which correctly assessed the prospects of this new type of aircraft.

The first series-built helicopters were as a rule powered by piston engines ranging from 280 to 1500 horsepower. They had a top speed of 170-190 km/h. Beginning in 1946, Bell built more than 5000 Bell-47 two-three-place helicopters. This helicopter, with a gross takeoff weight of 1300 kg, was produced in several versions for military and civilian customers. Somewhat later, in 1950, series production began on heavier helicopters turned out by the Sikorsky Company. Its S-55 and S-58 helicopters were also produced in several versions. More than 3000 helicopters were built in a period of 13 years, from 1950 through 1963. The gross takeoff weight of the 10-place

S-55 was approximately 3,400 kg, with a top speed of 160 km/h with a 600 horsepower engine, and a range of approximately 500 km. The gross takeoff weight of the even heavier S-58 was 6,350 kg, with a top speed of 198 km/h with a 1500 horsepower engine, and a range of 480 km. The cabin could accommodate 14 passengers.

The arms race initiated by reactionary circles in the West also directly affected the operations of helicopter companies. The U.S. Defense Department and the defense ministries of other capitalist countries generously financed the development of new helicopters for the army, navy and air force. Production of second-generation helicopters commenced at the beginning of the 1960's. The majority were now powered by gas-turbine engines, and they were faster, more maneuverable, and boasted greater range and payload. Multi-purpose craft were increasingly yielding to specialized models. Bell, for example, in addition to models 204, 205, 206 and 212 civilian helicopters, began building the Iroquois, a purely military helicopter. The powerplants on the helicopters built by this company -- and it has built more than 15,000 since 1960 -- range from 317 horsepower on the smallest four-place Bell-206, to 1800 horsepower on the Bell-212, top speed ranges from 200-220 km/h, and range has increased to 600 km.

During this same period Sikorsky has built approximately 700 S-61 and more than 400 S-65 helicopters. The S-61 is employed as a military transport helicopter and in antisubmarine warfare. It has a gross takeoff weight of 9,000 kg; its two gas-turbine engines produce 2000 horsepower; it has a top speed of 260 km/h and a range of 1,000 km. It can carry 25-30 assault troops. The S-65 military transport helicopter can transport up to 64 troops with a gross takeoff weight of approximately 20 tons. Its two engines, producing approximately 7000 horsepower, give it a speed of 300 km/h and a range of 413 km.

One can judge the extent to which the performance of second-generation helicopters has improved over that of their "older brothers" from the records registered with the FAI: speed -- 340 km/h; altitude -- 12,000 meters; range -- 3,500 km. Aerobatic maneuvers began to be performed with helicopters: wingovers, inside loops, and even rolls. The reliability and special equipment of these aircraft are making it possible to perform an increasingly broad range of missions: transport of troops and military equipment, delivery of assault forces, reconnaissance, submarine search, etc. Employment of helicopters in civilian applications has also expanded. Helicopters are used to combat plant pests, forest fires, in construction, and to transport passengers and freight.

The foreign press notes, however, that second-generation helicopters also contain serious deficiencies. The design and construction of these aircraft, especially the main and tail rotors, are still highly complex. The service life of many parts and assemblies is quite short. As a result the hourly operating cost of a helicopter is considerably greater than that for fixed-wing aircraft which perform similar jobs. The stability and controllability of helicopters in the air, as well as the vibration level, still

left much to be desired. In addition, considerable restrictions were imposed on operations under IFR conditions.

In the long run helicopter designers, and particularly helicopter purchasers could not accept these deficiencies. At the beginning of the 1970's intensive development of third-generation helicopters began in the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, the FRG, and Japan. Four basic types of helicopters were designed for military customers: a multirole transport helicopter, a heavily-armed helicopter gunship, a reconnaissance helicopter, and a light multirole embarked helicopter. At the same time development of helicopters for commercial applications was also in progress, but on a smaller scale: the Bell-222 6-10-place light executive and passenger helicopter, the Sikorsky 12-13-place S-76 helicopter, and the S-78 20-29-place medium passenger helicopter. According to the calculations of the leading capitalist-country helicopter companies, such third-generation helicopters, with periodic modifications suggested by operating experience, will be in series production up to 1919 and possibly up to the end of the 20th century.

During the years of U.S. intervention in Vietnam and aggressive Israeli actions in the Near East, military circles in the United States and other countries concluded that special heavily-armed assault helicopters with special aiming devices and crew placement were needed for the successful conduct of combat operations. And such helicopters were designed.

Special executive and passenger helicopters, offering greater luxury than the earlier-generation helicopters, have been designed and are being produced in limited numbers to meet the demand of such customers as executives of large companies and various government officials. In order not to spend large amounts of money and time on developing totally new types of helicopters, the helicopter companies as a rule build civilian helicopters based on the principal components (main rotors, reduction gears, powerplants) of previously-developed military helicopters. Designers focus principal attention on improving flight operational safety, reliability, increasing time between overhauls, adding comfort, and simplifying servicing and maintenance.

The majority of third-generation helicopters began to carry sophisticated electronic and navigation equipment to provide capability to fly and land in worse weather, which increases their military and economic effectiveness. As experts note, greater speed and range, better stability and controllability characterize third-generation helicopters. This has been achieved principally by means of aerodynamic improvements in the main rotor, fuselage, tail, and by incorporating retractable landing gear.

Main rotor blades are more and more frequently of composite materials (glass-fiber laminates and organic plastics; experimental work is in progress on molding blade elements of carbon and boron fibers). Such rotors have better aerodynamic blade shapes and greater efficiency (from 67-69% to

75-77%), and this boosts, without increasing engine horsepower, payload by 10-15% and cruising speed by 15%, with equal or even a 10-15% reduction in fuel consumption. In addition, employment of composite materials substantially increases blade life over metal blades. The service life of the composite-material blade on the West German Wo-105 helicopter, for example, is specified at 5000 hours.

In the effort to boost speed, foreign third-generator helicopter designers have begun devoting greater attention to improving overall helicopter aerodynamics. Improvement of fuselage shapes, retractable landing gear, flush rivets and a number of other measures boost the cruising speed of some craft by as much as 25%.

Elimination of the traditional main rotor hubs with flapping hinge, vertical hinge, and pitch horns, involving complex mechanisms and lubrication systems, and a large number of antifriction bearings, transition to elastomer connections between blade and hub and employment of composite materials enabled the French Aerospatiale Company, for example, to reduce hub weight from 108 to 50 kg, to reduce the number of hub parts from 377 to 50, and manufacturing cost by 50%. Time expenditures required for hub servicing and maintenance are decreased by almost 30%.

According to the calculations of Boeing-Vertol, employment of honeycomb panels in place of conventional stringer-frame structures will make it possible to reduce the number of parts in the fuselage by 53%, fasteners by 75-80%, and labor requirements in manufacture by 33%. Experiments are in progress to combine main rotor collective and cyclic pitch control in a single stick. This is important for military helicopters, where a critical situation is created if the pilot is wounded in one arm. Main and tail rotor electrical conductor control systems and lightguide control systems are being tested.

It is believed that helicopter in-flight vibration remains one of the major problems of helicopter engineering. Many companies are working on reducing vibration level. Reducing vibration not only improves crew and passenger comfort but is also one way to increase reliability and service life of helicopter components and systems. An interesting experiment with S-61 helicopters was performed in the United States. The helicopters of one squadron were equipped with special vibration absorbers, while the helicopters of another squadron were operated without such devices. The helicopters of the first squadron subsequently required 30% less servicing and maintenance time. Foreign experts are working persistently to find ways and means of reducing the helicopter vibration level from the currently-obtained 0.1-0.3 g to 0.01-0.05 g (as on jet aircraft) by 1990. They are searching simultaneously in several directions. The principal areas of search include the following: selection of fuselage rigidity characteristics by reinforcing frame elements with carbon strips; insulation of the fuselage from sources of vibration with a shock-absorbing suspension; suppression of vibrations at the source by mounting specially tuned inertial pendulums at the blade roots; selecting a center of gravity which will reduce to a minimum the flapping motion of the main rotor blades, etc.

Development of modern helicopters, especially military models, is proceeding in the direction not only of continuous improvement in design, aerodynamics, and employment of new materials, but also improvement in helicopter instrumentation and armament. It is believed that the principal objective is to provide the helicopter crew with the capability to fly at night and in IFR weather, in icing conditions, and at treetop level in a combat situation. This is essential in order to expand the tactical capabilities of helicopters and to increase their effectiveness against ground targets.

We must state that the helicopter builders have achieved a great deal in this area. A number of types of combat rotary-wing aircraft have been designed and built which meet the majority of the requirements of military customers. Recently an experimental "battle" between a group of helicopters and a group of tanks was conducted in the FRG. The results of this "battle" amazed even the experts. Twenty tanks were "destroyed" for every "downed" helicopter.

The high degree of effectiveness of helicopter subunits in combat against tanks, armored vehicles, artillery and missile batteries, as is noted by the foreign press, is achieved due to the concealed approach of helicopters to the target, their high degree of maneuverability, aiming accuracy and firepower of the helicopter-borne armament.

Designers at leading capitalist helicopter companies are continuing intensive efforts to improve these combat helicopter performance characteristics. Helicopters are being provided with equipment and flight conditions and situation display (including windshield display) providing capability to fly at extremely low altitudes (several meters above the ground), with contour flying and concealment behind terrain irregularities. The safety factor of the airframe, main rotor and controls is chosen figuring sustaining high structural stresses (up to 4 g), which guarantees a helicopter a high degree of maneuverability.

Foreign experts believe that advances in modern microelectronics make it possible to equip helicopters with diversified-function digital computer systems of small size and weight. Equipment is being developed for single-pilot capability instrument flight under IFR conditions with director display of information from surveillance, navigation, and weather radars; automated flight, hovering, takeoff and landing systems; area (off airways), inertial-Doppler and satellite navigation systems, as well as automated radio communications. Systems are being designed which provide helicopter flight capability in conditions of heavy icing.

New optical, opto-electronic, television, infrared and laser aiming devices as well as night vision systems are being tested in some foreign countries. Helicopters are being armed with guided missiles, rockets, mobile and fixed cannons and machineguns, as well as rocket launchers. The modern medium helicopter carries as many as 16 guided missiles and up to 76 rockets,

high rate-of-fire machineguns and up to 30 mm cannons. The crew and vitally important components are armor-protected on some helicopters in order to improve survivability.

Naturally innovations which have proven successful on military helicopters are also employed to a certain degree on civilian models, especially if it is economically beneficial both to the helicopter builders and customers. According to a statement in the foreign press, at distances up to 500 kilometers helicopters with gas turbine engines are already beginning to be competitive with so-called "executive aircraft."

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MARSHAL NEDELIN BIOGRAPHY REVIEWED

Moscow SOVETSKUY VOIN in Russian No 6, 1980 pp 32-33

[Review by Maj Gen N. Gusev, Candidate of Philosophical Sciences, of the book "Nedelin" by V. F. Tolubko, Molodaya gvardiya, Moscow, 1979: "First Commander in Chief of Strategic Missile Forces"]

[Text] "The working day of designers, testers and military people was approximately as follows: reveille at 0430 Moscow time, quick breakfast, drive out to the field, where there was work, work and ...work.... Nobody went to bed earlier than 0100-0200 hours....

'And finally the rocket was placed on the launching pad.

"During the final 48 hours before launch everybody worked around the clock, forgetting about sleep and rest. The days and nights flew by with "cosmic" speed. All technical personnel servicing the rocket, the control console operators, design office engineers, industrial organization personnel, and of course S. B. Korolev and M. I. Nedelin did not leave the launching pad area."

The above is a description by Army Gen V. F. Tolubko of the atmosphere of the working days of the first commander in chief of Strategic Missile Forces, Mitrofan Ivanovich Nedelin. The author of this book -- formerly First Deputy Commander in Chief of Strategic Missile Forces, who knew Mitrofan Ivanovich well -- uses extensive factual material in tracing the life and military career of this remarkable man, this prominent and talented military commander.

Chief Mar Mitrofan Ivanovich Nedelin is a member of that glorious group of Soviet people who came from the depths of the masses.

He was born in 1902 in the town of Borisoglebsk. His father died when he was five. His widowed mother was left with four children to raise. A hard-working nature and thirst for knowledge, however, enabled the lad to graduate from the parish church school and secondary school. At the age of 14 he took a job in the railroad shops. It was here he first learned about the Bolshevik Party and its leader, Vladimir Il'ich Lenin. Immersed

in an atmosphere of revolutionary struggle, he endeavored to be where the fate of the young Soviet Republic was being decided. Although Mitrofan had not yet reached the age of 18, he enlisted in the Red Army as a volunteer.

Forming and shaping of the future military leader took place under the influence of those historic tasks which were being vigorously accomplished by the Soviet people and its army under the guidance of the Communist Party.

Nedelin served as a party-mobilization soldier during the Civil War and a squad leader during the struggle against the kulak bands in Tambovskaya Oblast and against the Basmaks on the Turkestan Front. He joined the Communist Party in 1924. He served as artillery regimental library director, battery assistant political instructor and political instructor.

The author shows Nedelin as a political worker who comprehensively and skillfully combines ideological indoctrination work with accomplishment of political training tasks. Serving as a battery political instructor, he not only was a skillful gunner himself but also successfully directed battery gunnery activities. At one such firing exercise he was noticed by Chief of the General Staff A. I. Yegorov.

"How is the battery political instructor doing his job?" Yegorov asked the regimental commander.

"Excellently. Comrade Nedelin is thoroughly proficient not only as a political instructor but also as an artillery commander..." replied the regimental commander.

This conversation predetermined the subsequent destiny of Mitrofan Ivanovich. Having completed the advanced artillery training curriculum for command personnel of the Workers and Peasants Red Army, he has devoted his entire life to artillery and missile troops.

Mitrofan Ivanovich was always drawn into the thick of military affairs and events. When civil war broke out in Spain, he submitted a request to be sent to that country. Serving as a military adviser, he fought against the fascists in the army of the Republican Government.

The author examines in particular detail the combat activity of M. I. Nedelin during the Great Patriotic War. Serving as commander of an anti-tank artillery brigade of the Supreme High Command Reserve when the war broke out, he was in the war from the first to the last day, and was serving as deputy commander of the Third Ukrainian Front when the war ended.

In the difficult conditions of the initial period of the war, Nedelin's antitank brigade worked wonders. An important factor was the enormous work done by the brigade commander, who was able to mobilize command-political personnel to stubborn resistance against superior enemy forces. The book describes more than one vivid episode attesting to the brigade's heroic actions.

...On 13 July 1941 more than 100 enemy aircraft intensively bombed the brigade's positions. This was followed by 15 minutes of extremely heavy enemy artillery fire, followed by airstrikes, and again by artillery bombardment. This cycle repeated three times. The enemy believed that success had been achieved. But the fascist tanks, swiftly attacking, were met by accurate fire delivered by well-camouflaged artillery pieces and proceeded hastily to turn back, exposing their vulnerable sides to our artillerymen's aimed fire. In this engagement Nedelin's men destroyed 25 enemy tanks and 150 trucks.

The author speaks with great cogency about the effect produced on M. I. Nedelin by a meeting with the deputy chief of the political directorate of the Southern Front, Brigade Commissar Leonid Il'ich Breshnev.

At the end of July and beginning of August 1941 Nedelin's brigade, covering the withdrawal of the 18th army, engaged in heavy fighting with enemy panzer and motorized units. Combat continued incessantly, day and night. The men were exhausted and short of ammunition. It was at this time that L. I. Breshnev came to the brigade. He visited each regiment and talked with personnel directly in the gun positions, and that evening addressed political workers and commanders.

He stated that the command was not concealing the true state of affairs from the enlisted men. The situation was very serious. The Germans were putting out a maximum effort and ignoring losses and casualties. But our cause was just. We knew and believed that these setbacks were temporary. The time would come when we would halt and defeat Hitler's invaders. It was necessary to instill this faith in each and every fighting man, not only by means of methods of persuasion but chiefly through personal example of the ability to fight and to offer unbending resistance to the enemy.

"Taking leave of L. I. Breshnev," the author writes, "Mitrofan Ivanovich thought to himself: 'We are retreating, losing our comrades in arms, weapons, and equipment, and yet people are full of resolve to hit the fascists mercilessly. And our party instills confidence and strength in them. This is a temporary, forced retreat. We must fight better and more intelligently; only then can we count on victory....'"

The author reveals how M. I. Nedelin's combat skills in employment of artillery in army front operations grew in the course of savage fighting, operations in which he participated as 18th Army artillery commander, general officer in command of artillery of the 37th and 56th armies, commander of the artillery breakthrough corps of the Supreme High Command Reserve, general officer commanding artillery and front deputy commander.

Nedelin took active part in organization and conduct of a number of major operations to rout the German-fascist invaders. And he always displayed the perspicacity of a gifted military commander, the endeavor to

avoid lack of originality in artillery actions and the ability to find new techniques and modes of artillery employment and swiftly to put them into practice.

For services to the homeland Nedelin was awarded many decorations as well as the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

A striving toward innovative quest and improvement of artillery operations was characteristic of Mitrofan Ivanovich in the postwar period as well. In the book he is shown in the role of commander of artillery of the Southern Group of Forces and chief of the USSR Armed Forces Main Artillery Directorate.

In 1950 Nedelin was appointed commander of artillery of the USSR Armed Forces. "He commanded our artillery during a difficult and critical period," the author writes. A period in which the United States, in addition to hammering together military blocs and whipping up a war psychosis, pursued a policy of "nuclear blackmail."

The apotheosis of all Mitrofan Ivanovich's military activities is his active participation in the development of nuclear missile weapons and the Strategic Missile Forces. We should particularly like to mention the fact that, in writing this biographical sketch of Nedelin, the author examines his labor through the prism of the party's considerable organizing activity pertaining to strengthening national defense and participation in this work of a large number of scientific, industrial and military organizations and establishments. The author emphasizes that immediately after the war the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Soviet Government, because of U.S. nuclear blackmail, were compelled to effect a reorganization in the area of nuclear research. It was also necessary to resolve a second important problem -- to seek and find in a short period of time a means of delivering nuclear warheads. In addition to aircraft, the choice fell on long-range missiles.

The appropriate agency of the USSR Council of Ministers exercised general supervision over this project. Those persons entrusted by the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government and bearing responsibility for the development of missiles and nuclear weapons included Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, Sergey Pavlovich Korolev, Igor' Vasil'yevich Kurchatov, Nikolay Nikolayevich Voronov, and Mitrofan Ivanovich Nedelin.

The reader will find many interesting details on development and testing of the first ballistic missiles and on the harmonious joint work done by S. P. Korolev and M. I. Nedelin. The author cites a recollection about Nedelin by the chief ballistic missile designer. Sergey Pavlovich said: "The success of our difficult job was promoted by the active and fruitful assistance of Mitrofan Ivanovich Nedelin. I consider it very fortunate that during the period of elaboration and execution of the great project to develop the first ballistic missiles I had working with me this intelligent military commander, an erudite man in all respects, who understands the fine points of science and technology."

The first ballistic missile was tested in October 1947, and in August 1949 the Soviet Union successfully tested a nuclear device. This put an end to the absolute nuclear monopoly of the United States. The first ballistic missile with a thermonuclear warhead was developed in the USSR.

By the mid-1950's nuclear missile weapons were becoming operational. A highly complex task was formulated: to design a ballistic missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to any point on earth. In August 1957 the news that the USSR had developed a multistage intercontinental ballistic missile swept the globe.

The Strategic Missile Forces were established in December 1959, and Chief Mar Arty M. I. Nedelin was designated their first commander in chief. The author extensively discusses Mitrofan Ivanovich's considerable organizational activity pertaining to establishment of the Missile Forces, their training facilities, training of missile cadres and resolution of an entire complex of other matters.

Establishment of the Missile Forces took place with the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government devoting unabating attention to this important matter. "Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev," writes Army General Tolubko, "time and again traveled to the most difficult, critical areas and always helped the missile troops speed up construction of combat firing positions, establish and develop training facilities for the troops, provide and improve living facilities."

Direction of the Missile Forces particularly extensively revealed the organizing talents of Mitrofan Ivanovich and his ability to select and indoctrinate cadres, to unite collectives, and to organize precision troop control. All this is thoroughly discussed in Vladimir Fedorovich Tolubko's book. It affords readers the opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with the biography and diversified activities of the first commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces.

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MILITARY UNIFORMS: SHOULDER-BOARD CHANGES DESCRIBED

Moscow VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA SSSR in Russian No 12 (2034), 19 Mar 80
pp 204-205

[Annex to Ukase of Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet, 10 March 1980, No 1716-43]

[Text] Change in Description of Shoulder Boards Worn by Soviet Army and
Navy Personnel

Shoulder Boards on Full Dress and Parade Walking-Out Uniform of Soviet Army
Personnel

The field shall be gold on the uniform shoulder boards for all officers.
The shoulder-board field shall be red instead of crimson for cadets at military medical, veterinary medicine, and finance schools.

Piping shall be red instead crimson on the shoulder boards of chief marshals, marshals and generals of engineer troops and signal troops, generals of technical troops, generals and officers of justice, quartermaster, medical, and veterinary services, and administrative service officers.

The stars on the shoulder boards of chief marshals and marshals of engineer troops and signal troops shall be edged with red silk.

An emblem 34 millimeters in diameter, representing a five-pointed red star with edging and framed by two gold laurel branches, shall be embroidered with gold thread and red silk in the upper part of the shoulder board of an army general.

The color of clear spaces on the shoulder boards of all officers shall be the same as that of the piping on uniform shoulder boards.

Stripes on the shoulder boards shall be gold for all noncommissioned officers.

Braid along the edge of the shoulder-board field and stripes on the shoulder boards of cadets at all military educational institutions shall be gold.

The letters "CA" in gold shall appear on the shoulder boards of enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers in compulsory military service (except for 1st sergeants); a gold letter "K" shall appear on the shoulder boards of cadets at military educational institutions (except for cadets with the rank of "starshina" [1st sergeant, sergeant major]).

Shoulder Boards on the Full Dress and Parade Walking-Out Uniform of Naval Personnel

The field of shoulder boards on uniform jackets shall be gold for all officers.

Piping on the shoulder boards of general officers of military engineer ranks (except for aviation), officers and general officers of justice, quartermaster, medical and veterinary services, and administrative service officers, shall be red instead of crimson.

The color of clear areas on the shoulder boards of all officers shall be the same as that of the shoulder board piping on uniform jackets.

Piping on the shoulder boards (miniature shoulder boards) of cadets in military medical schools shall be red instead of crimson. Stripes and anchors on the shoulder boards (miniature shoulder boards) of cadets at all military educational institutions shall be gold.

The gold letter "Ф" shall appear in place of the pattern designating fleet (flotilla) on the shoulder boards of enlisted personnel and petty officers (except for ship-assigned chief petty officers) and on the miniature shoulder boards of enlisted personnel (except for senior seamen), on the shoulder boards of enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers (except for first sergeants) and on the miniature shoulder boards of enlisted personnel (except for privates 1st class) of shore and aviation units, as well as on the shoulder boards of enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers (except for 1st sergeants) for whom the army uniform is specified.

Shoulder Boards on the Everyday Uniform of Chief Marshals and Marshals of Engineer Troops and Signal Troops, and Army Generals

The piping of shoulder boards and edging of stars on the shoulder boards of chief marshals and marshals of engineer troops and signal troops shall be red instead of crimson.

The emblem on the shoulder boards of army generals shall be the same as on the shoulder boards of the full dress and parade walking-out uniform.

Shoulder Boards on the Field Uniform of Chief Marshals and Marshals of Engineer Troops and Signal Troops, and Army Generals

Piping on the shoulder boards and edging of the stars on the shoulder boards of chief marshals and marshals of engineer troops and signal troops shall be red instead of crimson.

The emblem on the shoulder boards of army generals shall be the same as on the shoulder boards of the full dress and parade walking-out uniform, but the edging on the small star and the laurel branches shall be khaki color.

Secretary of the Presidium of the
USSR Supreme Soviet M. Georgadze

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USSR SERIAL REPORTS (GENERAL)

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